



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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October 31, 2006

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-7-4

SUBJECT: LTP – FY2007 Farm Bill Actions and Timelines

Purpose: To provide information and Timelines for use in implementing the FY 2007 Farm Bill Programs

Expiration Date: This Bulletin expires September 30, 2007

This Bulletin provides a timeline for use in implementing the FY 2007 Farm Bill Programs. Field office staffs need to ensure that all active Farm Bill Program applications are entered into ProTracts and that each application has a ranking score and cost estimate associated with it by COB March 2, 2007. On March 15, 2007, NHQ will determine from ProTracts reports if each state has sufficient applications on hand to obligate their financial assistance (FA) allocation for each program. The report will look at the estimated value of applications marked as either pre-approved or approved in ProTracts. Any Farm Bill FA funds not obligated in a signed contract by June 1, 2007 are subject to reallocation to another state with greater demand.

Field Office staffs need to move forward with planning and scheduling the necessary work items to allow NRCS to obligate this financial assistance during FY 2007. ASTC(FO)s and DCs are strongly encouraged to share this information with the Local Work Groups to keep them informed of upcoming activities.

All due dates listed in the attachment are posted to the master calendar to assist you in scheduling field office tasks.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Herbert Andrick, ASTC-Programs at 304-284-7560.

/s/

RONALD L. HILLIARD
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: A
F



FY 2007 Farm Bill Timeline

EQIP

October 2006 LWGs meet and provide advice regarding any changes in LWG Priority Resource Concerns, Ranking Criteria, and Practice Lists.

November 1, 2006 NRCS and Local Work Group members announce availability of EQIP information and end of ranking period. Conduct Concentrated Public Outreach.

November 9, 2006 DCs send information in electronic format to Herb Andrick and their ASTC (FO). DC's will clearly identify any recommended changes in the ranking criteria and cost list from FY 2006. The State Conservationist must approve any changes.

December 1, 2006 End of Ranking Period.

March 2, 2007 DCs complete ranking of applications. All EQIP applications, cost estimates and ranking data are entered into ProTracts. Application status is moved from pending to eligible.

March 5, 2007 Lead DCs will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. The "Lead DC" in the LWG will coordinate and confirm applications selected for contract development with the other DC's, the ASTC (FO), and the ASTC (Programs).

March 7, 2007 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

March 15, 2007 Applications selected for funding are marked as Pre-approved or Approved in ProTracts.

May 11, 2007 All Contract folders delivered to Area staff for review and contract obligation. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

May 31, 2007 All contracts obligated in ProTracts

WHIP

December 1, 2006 End of Ranking Period.

March 2, 2007 DCs complete ranking of applications. All WHIP applications, cost estimates and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

March 5, 2007 ASTC-P will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. Application status is moved from pending to eligible.

March 7, 2007 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

March 15, 2007 Applications selected for funding are marked as Pre-approved or Approved in ProTracts.

May 11, 2007 All Contract folders delivered to Area staff for review and contract obligation. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

May 31, 2007 All contracts obligated in ProTracts

WRP

Applications will be forwarded to the State Office as received.

March 15, 2007 Applications must be populated in the database for pending applications.

AMA

March 2, 2007 End of Ranking Period.

March 9, 2007 FO completes ranking of applications. All AMA applications, cost estimates and ranking data are entered into ProTracts. Application status is moved from pending to eligible.

March 12, 2007 ASTC-P will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database.

March 15, 2007 Applications selected for funding are marked as Pre-approved or Approved in ProTracts.

March 19, 2007 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

May 11, 2007 All Contract folders delivered to Area staff for review and contract obligation. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

May 31, 2007 All contracts obligated in ProTracts.

NOTE: AMA and WRP implementation schedules may vary upon the date of receipt of funds.